

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 20 and 25-31 were pending in the application. Claims 3-24 and 29-31 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Accordingly, after the amendments presented herein have been entered, claims 1, 2, and 25-28 will remain pending. A Notice of Appeal is being filed concurrently herewith.

No new matter has been added. Any cancellation of the claims should in no way be construed as an acquiescence to any of the Examiner's rejections and was done solely to expedite the prosecution of the application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the claims as originally filed in this or a separate application(s).

Allowed Claims

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication by the Examiner that claims 1, 2, and 25-28 are allowed.

SUMMARY

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. DFN-031US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: May 3, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By  _____

Hathaway Pease

Registration No.: 46,488

LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP

28 State Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02109

(617) 227-7400

(617) 742-4214 (Fax)

Attorney/Agent For Applicants